

## Little Big Run

Lace up your running shoes. The university is spearheading a new city-wide fitness program.

6

## Targeting prevention

What can a campus community do to identify and help troubled people, in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy?

3

## Diabetes director

An international reputation and multidisciplinary work lures a Colorado researcher.

7



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## Refuge in a cold, dark pit

**Maher Arar shares his tale of torture**

By Zoltan Varadi

As Maher Arar recounted the moment he lost the last scraps of hope that his nightmare would come to a quicker, less brutal end than the one he would be eventually be subjected to, a collective gasp of incredulity and anger could be heard emanating from a packed house at the Winspear Centre.

During the fall of 2002, sitting in tears at a detention facility in New York, Arar pleaded with an American Immigration and Naturalization Service officer not send him to Syria, as they had been threatening to, for fear of being tortured.

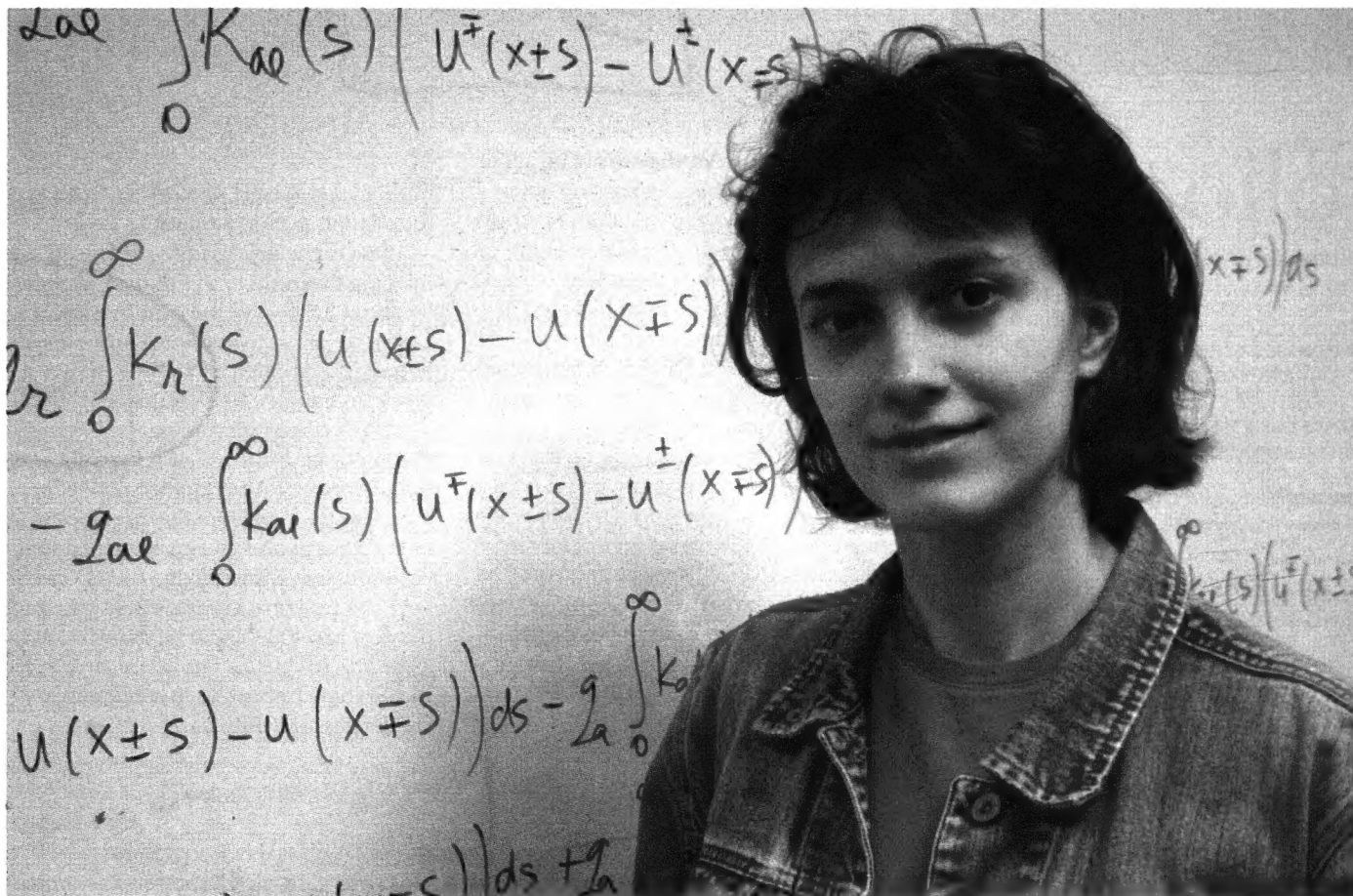
"INS is not the agency that signed or approved" – I don't remember the exact expression she used – "the Geneva Convention on torture," Arar said, paraphrasing an agent's response to his plight. "To me it was clear: they didn't care; my Canadian passport doesn't mean anything. 'You're not a human being. That's exactly why we're sending you to Syria, because we want you to be tortured.' That was very clear in my mind."

Given the familiarity of the Arar case with most Canadians, the audience's propensity to be shocked by what he said spoke volumes of this dark, Orwellian piece of recent history: after being wrongly profiled as Islamic extremist by Canadian authorities, Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian citizen, was detained without cause in New York, shipped to the detention centre and denied access to legal counsel, and then flown to his birth country to be interrogated as part of the U.S.'s rendition policy vis-à-vis the "Global War on Terror."

In February of this year, Prime Minister Stephen Harper formally apologized to Arar, who was also awarded a \$10.5-million settlement for his 10-1/2 months of imprisonment and torture.

In a moving testimony, Arar, the keynote speaker for the University of Alberta's 11th Annual Political Science Lecture,

Continued on page 4 ►



U of A grad student Raluca Eftimie has found a formula for the united movement of flocks of birds and schools of fish.

## Mathematician breaks down mob mentality

**Model explains behaviour of schools of fish, flocks of birds**

By Phoebe Dey

A University of Alberta study is showing that 'mob mentality' in the animal kingdom is the product of a series of individual communications.

There is a scene in the animated blockbuster *Finding Nemo* in which a school of fish makes a rapid string of complicated patterns – an arrow, a portrait of young Nemo and other intricate designs. While the detailed shapes might be a bit outlandish for fish to form, the premise isn't far off. But how does a school of fish or a flock of birds know how to move from one configuration to another and then reorganize as a unit, without knowing what the entire group is doing?

New research by U of A scientists shows that one movement started by a single individual ripples through the entire group – a finding that helps unravel a mystery that has plagued scientists for years.

"It is known that there is a connection between the signals animals use to communicate with each other and their behaviour," said Raluca Eftimie, a graduate student in the U of A's Centre for Mathematical Biology. "But until now, the connection between the complex spatial group patterns that we can see in nature and the different ways animals communicate has not been stated explicitly."

For decades people have puzzled about how animals – fish schools, locust swarms, large flocks of birds – form large, complex, dynamic groups. It is clear individuals in the group are only communicating with nearby neighbours, but then the groups somehow emerge spontaneously with complicated patterns. Eftimie and her co-authors – Dr. Mark Lewis and Dr. Gerda de Vries, also from the Centre for Mathematical Biology – used a one-dimensional mathematical model to

describe the formation and movement of animal groups. The work is published in the prestigious journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"Every individual in the group is influenced by the movement of the individuals in its neighbourhood," said de Vries. Conversely, the individual's movement can influence the movement of the entire group.

"It turns out that the entire group can respond indirectly to a single individual, as each individual's movement response is a signal to its next neighbour," said Lewis, the Canada Research Chair in Mathematical Biology. "By this method, signals are passed quickly from individual to individual. So for example, one fish turns, causing the next one to turn, then the next one, and so on."

Continued on page 2 ►



# President reviews achievements at Town Hall meeting

University goals include increasing number of grad students

By Richard Cairney

At a Town Hall meeting earlier this month, University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera provided students, faculty and staff with a review of the past year's achievements, and asked for their continued support in building a great university.

On April 16, about 200 people joined the president at the Lister Conference Centre, where Samarasekera presented a video of university successes from the past year, a "report card" on the university's progress and spoke about new directions for the U of A.

The report card is based on the Dare to Discover cornerstones of Talented People, Learning, Discovery and Citizenship, Connecting Communities and Transformative Organization and Support. Samarasekera pointed to several

memoranda of understanding between the U of A and colleges across the province, giving rural students easier access to a U of A degree, as one example of success under the area of Talented People. The MOUs also ensure that the U of A serves the entire province, she said.

"This allows us to be the University of Alberta," Samarasekera said.

In the area of Learning, Discovery and Citizenship, the president said the integration of research into the undergraduate learning experience is an important university goal – one it has improved upon.

Increased awareness of the commercialization of technology is a strong achievement in Connecting Communities.

"This is not just science and medicine and health," Samarasekera said. "It's the humanities as well. The Orlando Project, for example, which is a major international project, has been commercialized in the form of software that's being used by many people. So, commercialization can really extend across the university."

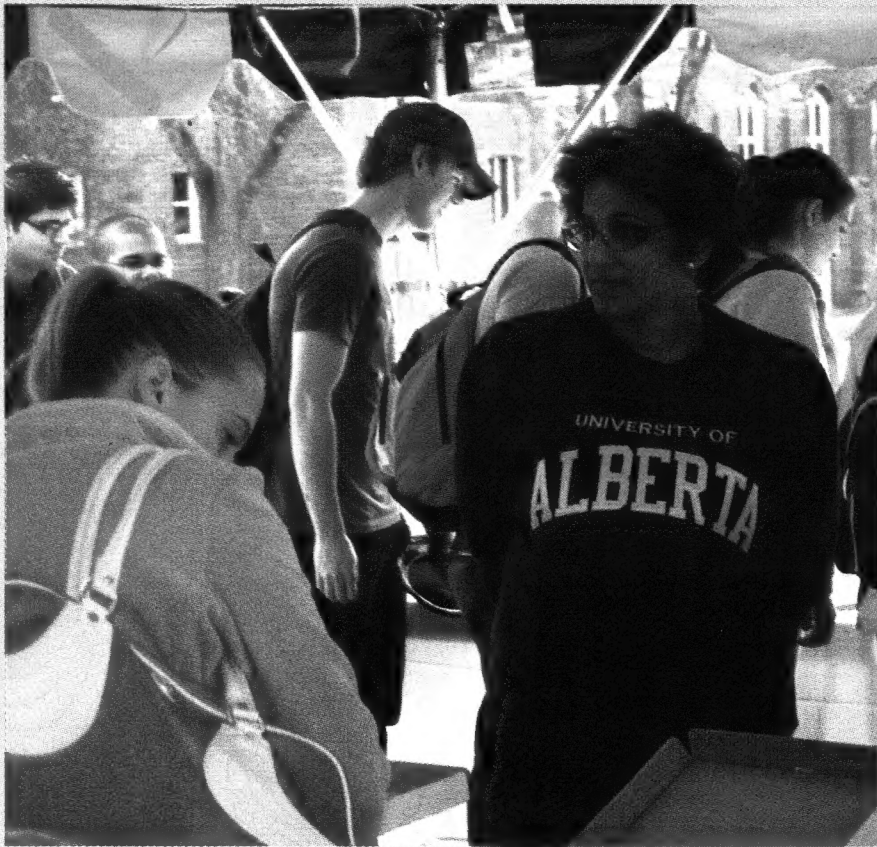
Successful lobbying by several university presidents for the establishment of new federal funding for graduate student places is a striking achievement in the area of Transformative Organization and Support, the president noted, as are the official opening of the National Institute for Nanotechnology and the establishment of the new Canada School for Sustainable Energy.

"So, you get an idea about the things we'd like to see in a report card: they're not all about numbers, they're not all about counting. They're about expressing initiatives we think are really valuable and speak to those cornerstones," she said, inviting members of the campus community to send their ideas for successes to be included in next year's report card to her office.

The university has a goal of becoming one of the world's top 20 public research universities by the year 2020.

"Dare to Discover reminds us that you don't build a great university in a day or a month or a week," she said. "In fact, when someone asked the president of Harvard what it takes to build a great university he said, 'Three hundred years.' Now, we don't have 300 years – we want to get there in a hurry, so we have a plan to get there no later than 2020. In fact I think we are well on our way to becoming a great university,

## Presidential Pizza



President Indira Samarasekera threw a pizza party April 13 to mark the last day of classes and offer students her best wishes during their exams. The president dished out about 2,000 slices of pizza, and drinks, to hungry students. "It's so cool that she's doing this," said one student. "It's great that she's out here with us today."

but this report card reminds us there is a foundation that is required."

One of the university's goals is to increase the number of graduate students by about 2,500 over the next five years. Doing so helps diversify the economy, and helps Canada catch up to the rest of the world in terms of its production of PhDs.

"We've been promoting the notion that, in order for the U of A to really serve the province of Alberta, the knowledge, the ideas that will take this province to its next stage beyond an energy-dependent economy into a knowledge-based economy, we need far more graduate students, both masters and PhD, in all fields," she said. "The arts are just as important and, in fact, increasingly important in solving many challenges and cultural issues." ■

"We've been promoting the notion that, in order for the U of A to really serve the province of Alberta, the knowledge, the ideas that will take this province to its next stage beyond an energy-dependent economy into a knowledge-based economy, we need far more graduate students, both masters and PhD, in all fields."

— President Indira Samarasekera

## Mathematical mob mentality

► Continued from page 1

This produces the complex collective behaviours – swarm formation, zig-zag group movements – that emerge from the 'bottom up,' simply based on interactions between neighbours."

Until Eftimie's work, these complex emergent patterns could not be connected clearly to simple rules for the small-scale communication between individuals.

People have had some success in proposing rather complex and detailed explanations for how specific species form into groups, says Lewis.

"What Raluca's work does is show that very simple and straightforward sets of rules can produce the complex kinds of patterns seen in nature," said Lewis. "Her work has stripped out the unnecessary detail to the core elements of communication that give rise to the patterns found in large scale groups."

In particular, the researchers looked at the direction from which animals can receive signals from their neighbours.

"For example, some species of birds use directional communication, and therefore, we may assume that in this case the behaviour of an individual will be influenced by

the signals received from those con-specifics that face towards this individual," said Eftimie. "Based on these observations, we come up with some simple rules that can describe the different ways animals communicate. Then we incorporate these rules into the mathematical model, and check what kind of movement patterns we get."

The team came up with 10 complex patterns. Some are classical, such as stationary pulses, ripples or traveling trains, but they also describe new patterns that have not been reported before, such as zig-zag pulses, feathers and traveling breathers.

This model doesn't apply to specific species, says Eftimie. "However, we can think of those flocks of birds that fly in one direction, and then suddenly change direction 180 degrees, and compare this with the zig-zagging type of pattern shown by the numerical simulations. Or we can think about the anti-predatory behaviour exhibited by some schools of fish – when a predator is nearby, the school contracts in a tight aggregation, to expand again when the predator is gone. And we can try to compare this behav-

"It turns out that the entire group can respond indirectly to a single individual, as each individual's movement response is a signal to its next neighbour."

— Mark Lewis

our with the breather pattern described in our paper."

The results of the model suggest that if we want to better understand the aggregations we see in nature, says Eftimie, we should take a look at how these animals communicate. ■

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# Can we prevent tragedy?

*Campus experts say it's possible, but it's also up to individuals and their families*

By Lee Craig

When such horrible murders as the Virginia Tech slayings occur we ask ourselves if there is any way for us to identify these types of potential killers and to prevent such devastating acts.

Possibly we can, say three U of A experts – a sociologist, a counsellor and an educational psychologist. These types of murders usually have some preliminary warning signs from the person who kills. However, they add, obviously there is no way to know for sure if a person is going to commit mass murder, something that is thankfully a rare event.

"Someone who commits a crime such as this has a track record, maybe stalking or fire starting. He will fit a profile, maybe sexual deviance or violence," said Bill Pitt, a U of A criminologist and a former RCMP officer.

"For this killer at Virginia Tech, the train was coming off the tracks for quite some time."

In the case of Cho Seung-Hui, the student who killed 32 people before killing himself, he had exhibited previous disturbing behaviour – as Pitt predicted before the entirety of it was reported. Cho had been taken to a mental health facility in 2005 after two female students reported he had harassed them. A teacher asked Cho be removed from her class because of his behaviour toward herself and other students, and because of his violent writing.

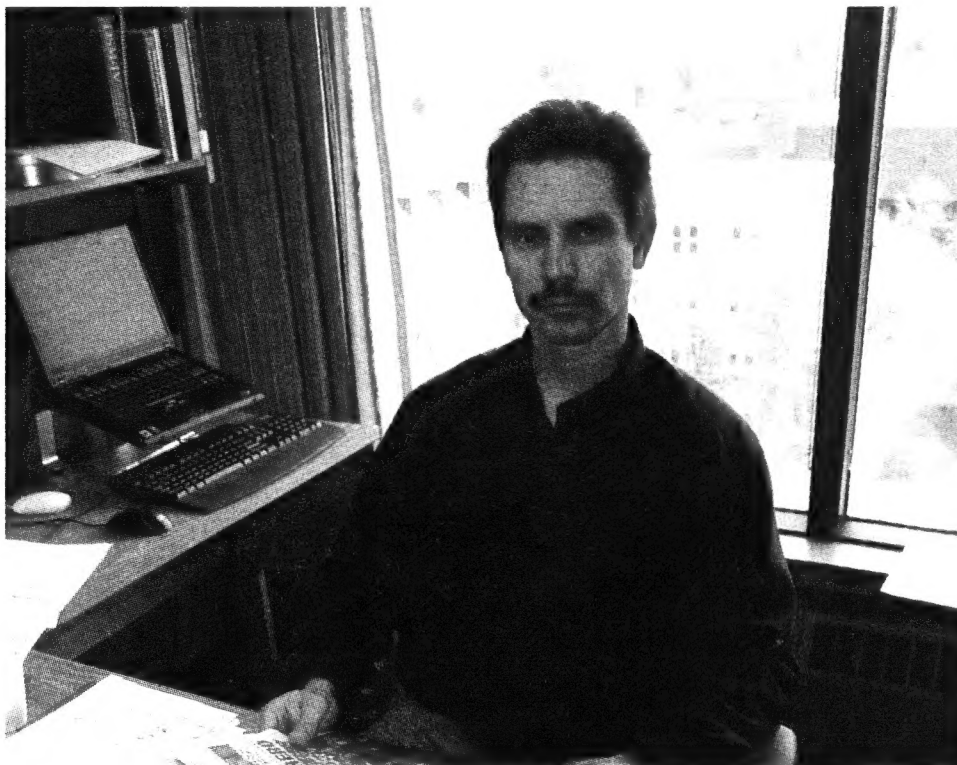
Professor Pitt also pointed to Marc Lépine and Kimveer Gill as men who both exhibited danger signs before committing mass murder. Lépine murdered 14 women at the École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989. Gill murdered one student and injured 19 more in 2006 at Dawson College in Montreal.

Lépine's problems arose from a highly dysfunctional family, said Pitt. Lépine's father was a froterist (he used to rub his genitals up against women while his wife watched). Lépine was a loner who performed poorly at school and blamed others for his failures. Gill was similar, says Pitt.

If a student is referred to counselling services, Pitt says it is important that someone on staff follows it up. No one seemed to have done so with Cho at Virginia Tech. However, Pitt added, a lot of the responsibility lies with the individuals who need treatment, and their families. If a person has access to firearms, the police must be informed.

"When it comes to recommending somebody go to counselling, we can't compel them," said Pitt. "We can't march them over there, sit them in a chair and inject them with drugs. We can't do that."

With both individual freedom and concern for aggravating a situation at issue, Pitt



Dr. Martin Mrazik says it is possible to prevent violent behaviour on campus.

acknowledges bystanders often do nothing.

Dr. Kim Maertz, a psychologist at U of A Student Counselling Services, says that an aggressive attitude, or confrontation is the wrong direction to take when trying to help someone who appears to be in emotional distress or alienated from others.

For people who might be like Cho, "you want them to feel connected to the world, connected to people. They want someone to talk to, to acknowledge them. You don't want to isolate them further by being angry or aggressive with them," Maertz said.

Dr. Martin Mrazik, a professor in the Department of Educational Psychology, says that there is a consistent profile to men who commit these types of shootings and murders:

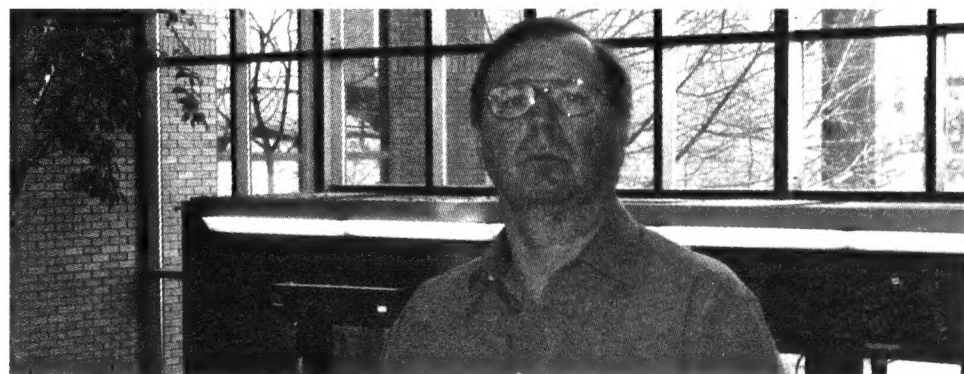
- 1) They come from an unsettled home where emotional support is lacking;
- 2) have an obsession with violence and violent media;
- 3) experience peer rejection – a sense of aloneness, especially in an immediate peer group;
- 4) have a history of suicidal intentions and thoughts – this could be suicidal behaviour but usually not close to the event;
- 5) have fairly recently experienced some type of loss.

This profile may be helpful in identifying people who might commit these crimes. Of course, Mrazik says, some of these items describe many people who will never commit crimes.

He pointed to the Jonesboro, Arkansas, shootings as an example where one of the shooters had earlier identified with violence in the media. He wrote about this fascination in his schoolwork.

An example of a person who has experienced loss, Mrazik said, is Eric Harris, one of the murderers at Columbine High School, Colorado, in 1999. Harris had applied to the military and was rejected, something he talked about to people at his school. In Cho's case, he had been making inappropriate advances on women on campus and had been reported.

"So there is a cluster of these things



Criminologist and former RCMP officer Bill Pitt says there are definite indicators in a person's history that suggest they may become violent.

that usually ends up in some event that seems to trigger them off into taking action," said Mrazik.

However, knowing a person will escalate to committing acts of violence, such as the murders in Virginia, is tough, he said.

Identifying potential killers is made even more difficult by the use of less personal media to communicate with, Mrazik said. The people who may see violent fantasies posted on Internet sites have no personal connection to, or knowledge of, the person posting them.

"We now have global media available to everybody where people talk about their violent intentions beforehand and no one is checking in on it. No one likes to talk censorship of these sites, but who will take action if someone is specifically outlining their criminal intentions?" said Mrazik.

Another factor in the incidence of violence on campuses is the increase in cases of mental illness on university campuses.

From what is known about him, Cho

"The cases I have read about suggest that a listening ear can make a difference."

– Dr. Martin Mrazik

was "absolutely a distressed student," and had mental health problems, said Maertz.

He says the increase in mental illness is because campuses are bigger places today. He pointed to a 2005 national survey for counselling directors that strongly indicated an increase in the incidence and severity of mental illness on North American campuses.

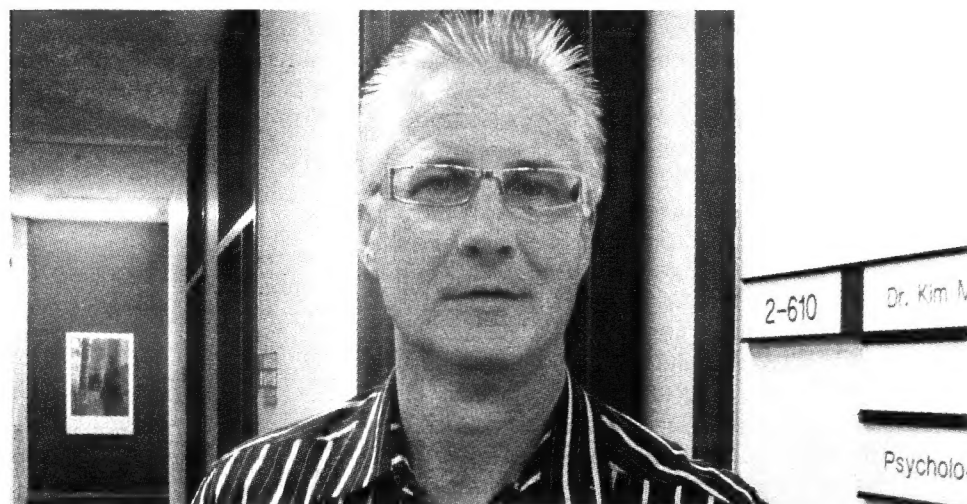
At the U of A there are 6.5 psychologists for more than 37,000 students, Maertz said. This ratio is more than three times less than the national average (one psychologist for every 1,791 students). And on campus, appointments are booked two weeks ahead.

Encouraging someone to go for counselling is a delicate matter, which is why Maertz believes it is crucial for all campuses to have procedures for staff to follow. First of all, make sure to suggest counselling in a private way, so the person isn't embarrassed in front of other people, he advises.

Maertz created the guide *Identifying, helping and referring students in distress: A guide for faculty and staff*. About 6,000 copies have been distributed to faculty and staff members across campus.

Mrazik stressed it is crucial to inform the right people when someone is in trouble.

"With a person who has made a direct reference to violence against an individual or individuals, you should inform the police



Student Counselling Services psychologist Dr. Kim Maertz has created a handbook and distributed it to about 6,000 faculty and staff members. The guide, *Identifying, helping and referring students in distress: A guide for faculty and staff*, is available at Student Counselling Services.



# Quinney honoured with scholarship

*Award recognizes outstanding leadership, academic performance in student athletes*

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Dr. Art Quinney's career at the university has spanned four decades, his scholarship has been internationally recognized and his passion for fitness and well-being is renowned.

So when it came to finding a way to honour the deputy provost's achievements as he prepares to end his term, administrators had a challenge on their hands.

"The question was, what is an appropriate way of making sure the institution remembers his contributions," said Dr. Carl Amrhein, provost and vice-president (academic). "The answer was to recognize that Art, going back to his days before dean in Physical Education and Recreation, was very much concerned about funding for students who are both high-achieving academically and athletically. And in particular, he was worried about balanced funding for male and female athletes."

After much thought, the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, in partnership with University Hall, created The Art Quinney Pandalas Student-Athlete Award/Scholarship.

The award recognizes female athletes who display exemplary leadership and academic prowess and comes with a \$500 prize. On April 13, the inaugural award was given to Pandalas basketball player Michelle Smith.

It was a recognition that came out of the blue for the pharmacy student.

"I was shocked," said Smith, who served as a co-captain to her team. "First off, it's the first time this award's ever been given, so I had never heard about the award. And I definitely didn't expect to get it, no. I was very surprised. My coach did a very good job of hiding it from me – he's usually not very good at keeping secrets."

It was also a surprise for Quinney, who didn't know about the creation of the



At this year's Green and Gold Awards Night, the first Art Quinney Pandalas Student-Athlete Award/Scholarship was given to Pandalas basketball player Michelle Smith – a surprise for both Smith and Quinney.

award until attending the Green and Gold Banquet April 13, an annual event honouring athletic achievements.

For Quinney, gender equality in sport is critical. It's also something the U of A has taken seriously, he says.

"It's been a part of our whole athletics program over the last few years in terms of being able to develop programs for female athletes at a level that's trying to move towards parity in terms of men's athletics. I think we've done pretty well over the last few years. It's moving in the right direction," he said.

Quinney, a U of A alumnus and a scholar in the field of exercise physiology, began

his career in 1976 at his alma mater.

He has seen the campus go through many changes, and helped the university during important times of change, bridging the gap between provosts (to Amrhein from Dr. Doug Owram) and between presidents (to Dr. Indra Samarasekera from Dr. Rod Fraser).

"He's done a spectacular job," said Amrhein. "For one summer, he was deputy provost, provost and president. He's done just an amazing amount of work."

Amrhein says Quinney has established an outstanding academic legacy, as well. "He is an extremely prominent scientist in his own area, in addition to all of his

"He is an extremely prominent scientist in his own area, in addition to all of his administrative work. He's the perfect university professor in every respect."

– Dr. Carl Amrhein

administrative work. He's the perfect university professor in every respect."

Smith, who has just completed her fifth year of varsity sports, is preparing to complete her pharmacy degree. She says the experience has been rewarding not only in terms of athletic accomplishment, but because of all she's learned from her teammates.

"You work hard together, and set goals and try to achieve them, and go up and down, the whole way. It's just an analogy to life in general, really."

Quinney served as dean of Physical Education and Recreation from 1991-2000. He has held a McCalla Research Professorship and acts as a consultant to professional and Canadian national sport teams, as well as serving on several national and provincial sport and fitness related boards. He is past chair of the Board of Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, and past president of the Sport Medicine Council of Canada, the Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology and the Sport Science Association of Alberta. He is also the founder and past chair of the executive management group of the Alberta Centre for Active Living. ■

## Arar's cold, dark tale

► Continued from page 1

told the audience how he came to actually view his filthy, dark, three-foot wide cell where he lived for those 10-plus months as a place of refuge.

"Can you imagine preferring a place like this rather than having to see their faces and to endure their beatings?" he said.

Still, Arar says some good came out of his ordeal, such as the official inquiry in which Justice Dennis O'Connor held Canadian officials accountable for distorting information.

Arar also said that Canadian citizens helped bring his case to justice, and in doing so revealed some fundamental differences between approaches to human rights in Canada and the U.S.

"Canadians are fair-minded. I don't think the Arar Inquiry occurred because I wanted it, I think it occurred because the Canadian people wanted it to happen. The Canadian people wanted the truth to come out," he said. "I really believe that if my case had happened in the states, if I was an American, I don't think I would have been released from Syria, I don't think Americans would have stood up to their government and ask to get me back."

But additional guest speaker Julian Falconer, Arar's lawyer in the compensation case, cautioned that as a nation we still need to be vigilant. Falconer, a U of A alumnus, pointed out that even though the kind of Terrorist Act provisions that led to Arar's arrest and detainment were renounced in a vote earlier this year, the likely balance of political power in the near future likely means those provisions are anything but history.

"For those that believe the fact that the



"I don't think the Arar Inquiry occurred because I wanted it, I think it occurred because the Canadian people wanted it to happen. The Canadian people wanted the truth to come out."

– Maher Arar

sunset clauses on secret investigative hearings and preventive arrests, which is fancy code for groundless arrest, for those that believe that that is over now because the sunset clauses were voted down 159 - 124, with respect, you're not being realistic," he said. "The Conservative party brought a motion to have the laws extended. That motion was defeated. One doesn't have to spend a lot of time in newspapers to see that this government might return as a majority and not far from now. One should accept the fact that the government of the day – that the position that they announced and sought to advocate in February of 2007, will be the law in months to come." ■

## Enterprise Square update

*Life downtown has plenty to offer*

At the end the 1990s, Edmonton's downtown was a very different place than it is today, says Downtown Business Association Executive Director Jim Taylor.

While only 5,000 people lived downtown, that number has since grown to 12,000 – and will grow by another few thousand people when several new high-rises are finished. People, businesses and institutions are eagerly moving into the centre of the city, says Taylor.

"The downtown is so different now than it was eight years ago. If you saw cumulatively the changes that have happened downtown – especially on Jasper Avenue – you'd be amazed," he said.

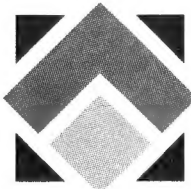
The eight-by-14-block area was once punctuated by unoccupied buildings, but this is quickly changing. The once-empty Bay Building has been transformed into Enterprise Square, which will be home to a number of U of A administrative units, plus TEC Edmonton, the Faculty of Extension, the School of Business' Executive Education and Family Business Institute and the Faculty of Arts Design Gallery.

The new U of A campus opens in September. But there are already new signs of life in the building. The Art Gallery of Alberta, awaiting completion of its new facility, recently opened its temporary home at Enterprise Square to rave reviews (see story and photos page 12).

Downtown has a lot to offer the U of A staff moving to Enterprise Square, says Bob Caldwell, with the City of Edmonton's Planning and Development Department. Downtown has a thriving arts scene, and is home to the Citadel Theatre and Winspear Centre. The area also boasts more than 420 stores, and numerous amenities like grocery stores, banks, government services and a brand-new YMCA facility offering group rates for fitness services.

"You name it, it's there," Caldwell said.

What's more, the U of A has a lot to offer downtown, says Taylor. The Faculty of Extension, for instance, will bring 7,000 students to the downtown core after hours. "That's what makes the downtown – when you start putting people on the street." ■



**Enterprise Square**  
University of Alberta



## Army of one

*Away from her desk, Anita Vagovics becomes a soldier of fitness*

By Lisa Ricciotti

Nothing like a bit of pain and misery to get your day off to a great start. Three mornings a week, at the excruciatingly early hour of 5:30 a.m., Anita Vagovics kick starts her day with a healthy helping of both – then heads off to her job as payroll consultant at U of A.

While most civilians are still blissfully enjoying their final REM sleep cycle, Vagovics challenges herself in a military-style training regime of near-Spartan strictness on the fields outside the Kinsmen Sports Centre. Sessions are always outdoors, rain or shine, until temperatures drop below -20 C. Then, and only then, the group moves indoors to the shelter of McNally School.

For 1-1/2 hours, Vagovics pushes herself to the limit. She does battle with a 200-lb. log called “Pain” and a big pole contraption nicknamed “Misery.” She cheerfully gets down and dirty, doing the leopard crawl on her belly across a field of mud. Spurred on by the insistent yells of drill sergeant instructors, she runs River Valley trails, sprints up stairs and does endless pushups, chin-ups, Bear Walks and burpees – often while wearing a 15-lb. pack. She doesn’t care if she’s cold and wet. On the field she’s not a sedentary support staffer; she’s a soldier of fitness.

Appropriately enough, that’s also the official name of Vagovics’ physical training program: Soldiers of Fitness.

“The name says it all,” she said. “It’s a military-style boot camp, run and founded by two local infantry soldiers who are part of the Edmonton regiment.”

Corporal Colin Reid and Sergeant Karth Sahadevan began the program in Edmonton in 2004 following a stint overseas in Bosnia. Having survived basic training camp and achieving new personal heights of fitness, the pair realized civilians could also reap the benefits of a military-style exercise program based on hard work, camaraderie and discipline. Vagovics signed up for her first month-long training session in 2005 and has been hooked ever since. For her, there’s definitely no life like it.

“I can’t say enough about Soldiers of Fitness,” said Vagovics. “I mention it as often as I can to as many people. It’s not for everyone; it takes a certain kind of person to make it through. But the majority finish the course and many come back from more.”

Vagovics has done so many repeat tours of duty with Soldiers of Fitness that she’s now an instructor as well as a participant. Since the program runs five days a week, two times a day, Vagovics sometimes finds herself putting others through their paces from 5:30 - 7 p.m. after doing the exercises herself from 5:30 - 7 a.m.

“It can be tough, being part of the course in the morning, then going back in the evening as an instructor. But it’s what I like to do. I love it.”

While Vagovics acknowledges that a boot-camp approach to fitness doesn’t appeal to everyone, she knows exactly why it works for her. “It’s great for someone like me who’s not really self-motivated to exercise. It is all based on real military exercises, so it is strict and there’s a lot of yelling. But it’s always very positive and motivating. The instructors might tell you to move your butt and get going, but they also encourage you, and there’s no name-calling. And I enjoy the teamwork environment.”

For those curious whether they could cut it in basic boot camp, Vagovics advises that “the first month is the hardest. The



Anita Vagovics, seen here running a leg of the notorious Death Race, has found that training with Soldiers of Fitness has had a positive effect not only in terms of physical fitness, but in her outlook on life.

“It’s something I’ve never done before. I never knew I could be a runner and now I am. Soldiers of Fitness mentally helps you as well. You feel good about yourself, knowing you can do it.”

— Anita Vagovics

program is designed around a cycle of one-month courses that get progressively harder. But the more you do, the stronger you get, and the more help you can lend to others who are just starting. That’s where the team environment comes into play.”

First-timers begin at all fitness levels, from marathoners to couch potatoes.

“The only requirement is that you have to be able to walk or run a mile, then the instructors take it from there.”

Dig a bit deeper in Vagovics’ past and another reason surfaces for the program’s appeal to her: she too has a military past. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do after high school, so the navy is what I ended up doing,” she explains. Vagovics served as a naval signalman, sending Morse code by flashing lights. But although she enjoyed



“travelling wherever you can go connected to the Atlantic,” she didn’t want to make a career of it. After completing her four-year stint with the Armed Forces, Vagovics began working at U of A, and has been here since.

Twelve relatively sedentary years at a desk job took their toll however, and Vagovics is thrilled with the changes she’s seen since signing on with Soldiers of Fitness. “I lost about 40 lbs., and now I feel strong and fit. It’s totally whipped me into shape.”

She’s also taken up long distance running. “It’s something I’ve never done before. I never knew I could be a runner and now I am. Soldiers of Fitness mentally helps you as well. You feel good about yourself, knowing you can do it.”

Vagovics’ big challenge ahead is sur-

living Grande Cache’s Canadian Death Race this August long weekend. Last year Vagovics ran one of the adventure race’s “easier” legs as part of a relay team; this year she’s ratcheting it up to the extremes of Leg Five and its grueling final 24 km, run in the dead of the night. She’ll need all of her Soldiers of Fitness training to cover rugged mountain terrain that includes a net elevation change of more than 2,500 feet and one raft crossing.

Daunting indeed, but Vagovics feels ready. “You realize there will be challenges, but if you put your mind to it, you can basically do anything you want.”

Soldiers of Fitness “has changed my life,” she said. “It’s opened so many doors for me. As long as my body lets me, I plan to continue.” ■



New tests could change the way disease is diagnosed

Magnetic resonance diagnostics research receives \$1.17 million boost

By Caitlin Crawshaw

The magnet at the centre of the U of A's nuclear magnetic spectrometer is 360,000 times stronger than the Earth's magnetic field, but its benefit to the health of Canadians may be immeasurable.

The \$650,000 instrument is the centerpiece of the Magnetic Resonance Diagnostics Centre in the NANUC research facility, which develops testing to diagnose diseases – including pneumonia, TB, cancer and many others. The purchase of this technology is the first phase of a \$1.17-million investment to the centre from Western Economic Diversification Canada.

Phase two was announced April 12, and involves a \$520,000 investment for further development of diagnostic tests, including a pneumonia test, which will eventually be sold commercially.

“What began four years ago as a concept is on its way to becoming a functional diagnostic tool that will impact the health and quality of life of all Canadians,” said Dr. Tom Marrie, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

Using nuclear magnetic resonance technology, researchers are exploring how the molecular byproducts of disease can be used for diagnosis. By taking a small amount of urine (or blood, tissue and



Dr. Bruce Lix, business manager for NANUC, explains the science behind diagnostic tests which measure the presence of disease byproducts in urine, blood and tissue samples.

other non-liquid samples), researchers can analyze the sample to electrical signals that indicate certain diseases. The entire process can take as little as 45 minutes. Researchers are discovering how to read those signatures, to identify many diseases – and their causes.

Some illnesses, like pneumonia, have many causes, said Marrie. About 100 dif-

ferent pathogens can cause pneumonia, although three specific micro-organisms account for most cases. Proper treatment depends upon identifying whether a patient has viral or bacterial pneumonia. For this reason, the centre's pneumonia test alone will have a great impact on Canadians, many of whom will ultimately come down with the illness. As we age,

“What began four years ago as a concept is on its way to becoming a functional diagnostic tool that will impact the health and quality of life of all Canadians.”

– Dr. Tom Marrie

the illness has greater and greater effect. “It's how many of us will die when we're old,” said Marrie.

Ultimately, it is hoped that the technology can be simplified and transformed into a portable, hand-held device. “It could be as simple as a marker stick, like the ones that turn blue if you are pregnant or red if you have TB,” said Marrie.

The development of the technology could ultimately save the health-care system great sums of money and make a tremendous difference to the health of Canadians, said MP Rahim Jaffer.

“Our investment of over \$1.17 million will not only trigger economic growth in the region and strengthen Canada's health technologies sector, it will create new ways to diagnose disease and save lives.” ■

Getting a city on its feet

University plays leading role in new city-wide wellness event

By Richard Caimey

When the IAAF World Championships in Athletics was held in Edmonton in 2001, the local organizing committee established a \$10-million legacy of the games.

The most publicly visible result of that legacy begins in June with the Edmonton Journal Little Big Run, a city-wide event being organized by the University of Alberta, Capital Health and the City of Edmonton.

The event will put some 3,000 school children between Grades 3 and 9 through a day of athletics training at Laurier Park on June 1, with an annual five- and 10-kilometre walk-run on June 3. The run will snakes its way from Sir Winston Churchill Square in the downtown core to the U of A Faculty Club.

Kevin Tyler, who heads up the campus-based Canadian Athletics Coaching Centre and is an organizer of the event, says the idea behind the Little Big Run is to encourage regular people to lead active lives.

“There should be no intimidation factor with this event. You don't have to go out and raise funds for a charity, the charity is you – this is all about you,” said Tyler. “It's all about you, and healthy living and setting an example for your children and others in your life.”

The first event in the Little Big Run will bring thousands of school children to Laurier Park. There, they will go through a series of run, jump and throw exercises, followed by a warm-up and a one-km walk/run.

They'll be joined by a group of elite athletes who are training at the U of A. Elite runners like Carline Muir, Nicolas Macrozonaris and Tyler Christopher – all hopefuls for the 2008 Olympics – will be on hand to coach and inspire the youngsters. And they'll be available to offer advice to people who sign up to participate in the June 3 walk-run.

The presence of the internationally known athletes – Christopher and Macrozonaris are reigning Canadian champs in the 400 and 100-meter events respectively, and Muir is the Canadian junior champ in the 400 M run – will help raise the profile of athletics in the city and inspire others to lead more active lives, Tyler said.

“The fastest people in Canada train

“There should be no intimidation factor with this event. You don't have to go out and raise funds for a charity, the charity is you – this is all about you.”

– Kevin Tyler

here. The best track and field program is in Edmonton, and people need to know that,” he added. “This is a new event, and we're trying to get the community to become more active, and if the centre and the faculty could have that impact – that's a great story.”

While giving exposure to the athletes and the training centre, Tyler says the athletes get something from their participation as well.

“There are athletes who have gone to the Olympics and won medals and that's it – they're forgotten. When I see that happen, my feeling is that something has gone wrong. The athletes need to be active in the community and earn the respect of the community.”

Tyler said the City of Edmonton has come through in a big way to help stage the June 1 youth event at no cost, by providing 70 buses to transport children to and from their schools.

“The city has said ‘this is crucial – we have got to get this done’,” Tyler said. “And as a result of this event for school kids, there will be a lot of kids encouraging their parents to come down on the Sunday to take part in the five or 10-km events.”

“We hope the children's participation encourages their parents to do likewise on the Sunday. I'd like to see us become one of the healthiest communities in the country and there is a part for everyone to play in reaching this goal.”

Tyler added that the U of A and Capital Health, while partners in the event, will be

competitors in terms of having the highest number of participants.

“The rumour is, we've already heard about one of the departments at Capital Health that is going to be committing a lot

of people to do this,” Tyler said. “So we really have to step it up.”

Participants can register using the attached form, or by visiting the Little Big Run website at: [www.littlebigrun.ca](http://www.littlebigrun.ca) . ■

# REGISTRATION

Register online at [littlebigrun.ca](http://littlebigrun.ca) or at any Running Room location.

If you are entering a team and a family, please complete one form for each.

First name:		Initials	
Last name:			
Date of Birth:	Age on Race Day:	Sex: Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address:			
City:		Prov/State:	
Postal/Zip Code:		Country:	
Phone (day):		Phone (eve):	
Contact Email:		Fax:	
Medical Info:			
Unless indicated ho, participant information may be displayed for event purposes: No <input type="checkbox"/>			

Event		Event code	early bird	reg. rate	late rate	sub total
Single	5K	Run	#11125	\$19	\$25	\$30
		Walk	#11125	\$19	\$25	\$30
	10K	Run	#11126	\$24	\$30	\$35
		Walk	#11126	\$24	\$30	\$35

Event		Event code	early/late rate	# additional X \$10	sub total
Family	5K	Run	#11127	\$45 / \$55 / \$65	+ ( ) X \$10 =
		Walk	#11127	\$45 / \$55 / \$65	+ ( ) X \$10 =
	10K	Run	#11128	\$55 / \$65 / \$75	+ ( ) X \$10 =
		Walk	#11128	\$55 / \$65 / \$75	+ ( ) X \$10 =

Team name or employer:					
Team Event		Event code	team of 10	# additional X team rate	sub total
Team	5K	Run	#11129	\$190	+ ( ) X \$19 =
		Walk	#11129	\$190	+ ( ) X \$19 =
	10K	Run	#11130	\$240	+ ( ) X \$24 =
		Walk	#11130	\$240	+ ( ) X \$24 =

Shirt Size: Please Choose	S	M	L	XL	XXL	sub total
Cotton T	#	#	#	#	#	INCLUDED
Youth Shirt Size: Please Choose	#	#	#	#	#	INCLUDED
Upgrade to a Tech Shirt (adult sizes only) \$15 EACH X	#	#	#	#	#	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED:						\$

## WAIVER

**Waiver/Abandon:** I know that participating in physical fitness events is a potentially hazardous activity. I agree not to participate unless I am medically able and properly prepared. I should not participate without my physician's approval. I agree to abide by any decision of an event official concerning my ability to safely participate. I assume any and all risks associated with the event, including but not limited to, falls, contact with other persons or objects, the effects of weather, traffic and course conditions. As a condition of my entering this event, I, for myself, any accompanying minors, and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release Edmonton Journal Little Big Run, any associated or related entities, their directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, sponsors, volunteers, and organizers (herein collectively called "Event Organizers"), from present and future claims and all liabilities of any kind, known or unknown, arising out of my participation in this event or related activities, even though such claim or liability may arise out of negligence or fault on the part of the Event Organizers. I agree that the Event Organizers shall not be liable for any personal injury, death or property loss, and I release the Event Organizers and waive all claims with respect thereto. In the event my registration fees are paid, I agree to be bound by the provisions of this waiver. I grant permission to Event Organizers to use or authorize others to use any photographs, motion pictures, or any other record of my participation in this event or related activities without remuneration. Applications for minors shall be accepted only with a parent's signature and should be signed by the minor.

I have read this Waiver. I understand and accept its terms.	Signature:
How did you hear about the event?	

**PLEASE NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO REGISTRATION ON SUNDAY.**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 5PM FRIDAY, JUNE 1**

**Cheques payable to: UofA Little Big Run**

**Mail To:** Little Big Run  
Attention: Brian Kropman  
W1-34 Van Vliet Centre  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H9

**Package PickUp (Tshirts, timingchip (for 10k only):**  
  
Edmonton City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square

**Time:** Friday, June 1 10am - 8pm  
Saturday, June 2 9am - 8pm  
Sunday, June 3 6am - 7:30am

**VOLUNTEERS**  
Get involved with this active living event!  
All volunteers will receive souvenir and pasta dinner at volunteer appreciation night. Exclusive volunteer draw prizes will be awarded.  
**Register to volunteer online at [www.littlebigrun.ca](http://www.littlebigrun.ca).**

**No refunds or transfer**  
\* **Early Bird Deadline April 30, 2007**



# Diabetes director in tune with multidisciplinary approach

*Dr. Ronald G. Gill excited about research collaborations*

By Illeiren Byles

Dr. Ronald G. Gill isn't interested in being a prima donna.

The new scientific director of the Alberta Diabetes Institute and professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology says diabetes research is too broad a field for researchers to be insular in their work. And although the centre's building isn't yet complete, the multidisciplinary atmosphere here has Gill excited.

"The building is great, but at the end of the day it's still just a building and what matters is what you do in the building," said Gill, who is joining the U of A from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. "Just seeing how many people are going to be in the building with different areas of expertise is so exciting. It's really going to make a difference."

"When you think about it, trying to transplant an islet into a Type 1 diabetic involves things like biology, autoimmunology, managing patients, health outcomes and nutrition. Nobody has that kind of range of expertise, nobody does. So, you can't be a prima donna. It's not very effective."

Gill was professor of medicine and immunology at the University of Colorado, a director of the institution's Transplant Immunology Program and Islet Cell Resources Program, developing clinical islet pancreatic transplantation. He was also a member of the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diseases.

Gill, his wife Mary, and their four children, will be relocating to Edmonton as he assumes his new role at the U of A.

"I was in Denver for more than 20 years, so it's a big change for me to be moving," he said. "There is a critical mass of talented, excited people here who really want this place to do well and after a while that just became irresistible. I've actually been collaborating with people here at the U of A for more than 15 years now – the group here has helped train our people in the clinical islet program. It's just the calibre and character of the people here – we've just hit it off since day one."

**"I'm not a scientific Darwinist, in that I don't think you just let people fend for themselves and see who survives. You nurture the group. I'm very passionate about training and teaching, raising up the next generation of researchers."**

– Dr. Ronald G. Gill

Gill's initial training was in immunology and his focus was on tumour immunology. One day, that changed.

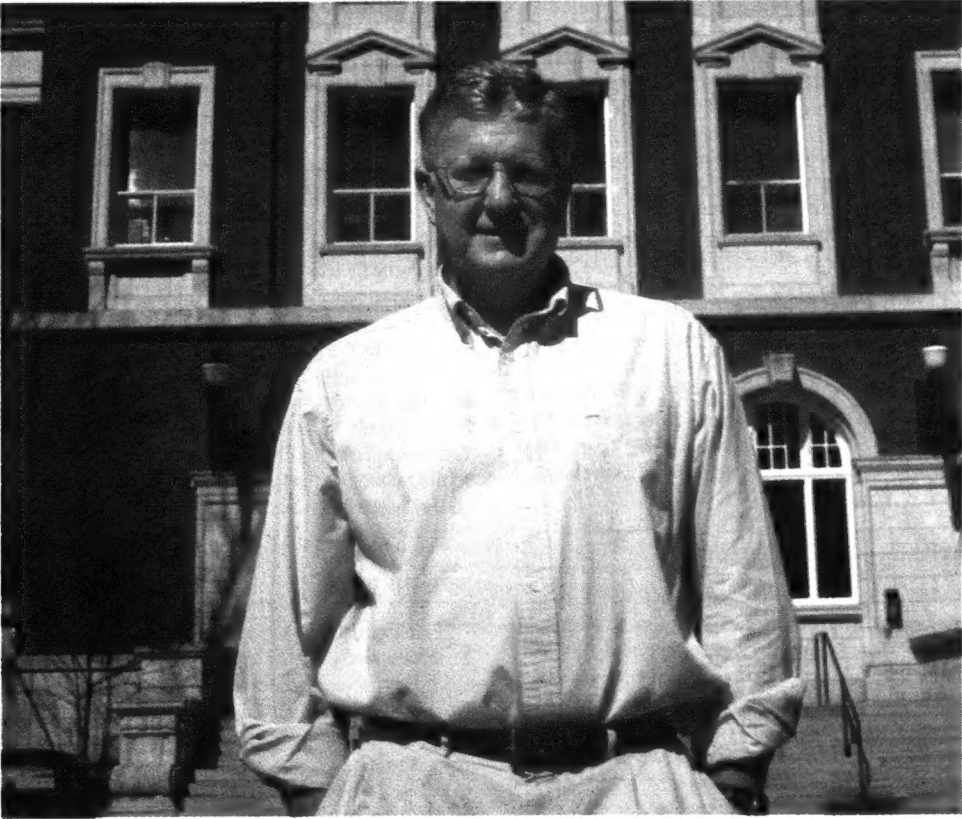
"I heard a lecture on islet transplantation in juvenile diabetes and I thought, 'Well, that's the ticket' and just fell in love with the field," he said. "There are a lot of issues in autoimmunity and transplant immunology that are very similar. It's an important basic science issue, but it's also an important clinical issue as well."

The significance of the work is evident to Gill.

"When you work in a place like the Barbara Davis Center in Denver, when you see kids with the disease in and out every day – and I expect the same will be true at the centre here – it really impacts you, how important it is that there are real people involved."

He's looking forward to some serious team-building at the Alberta Diabetes Institute.

"I'm not a scientific Darwinist, in that I don't think you just let people fend for themselves and see who survives. You nurture the group," he said. "I'm very passionate about training and teaching, raising up the next generation of researchers." ■



Dr. Ronald G. Gill is the new scientific director of the Alberta Diabetes Institute.

## » quick » facts

- As an immunologist, Gill's main focus is tissue and organ transplantation. "The autoimmune disease adds a whole new dimension to transplantation because even if you could tissue match and all the things involved with traditional transplantation, the underlying autoimmune disease can sit latent for 30 years or more," he said. "If you put an islet transplant into that person, the immune system remembers what it did the first time around and attacks the tissue again."
- Although rising levels of Type 2 diabetes are being reported in the media along with other obesity dangers, Gill says Type 1 diabetes is also on the rise. "Type 2 is one thing, tied into diet and lifestyle and everything else, but Type 1 is also increasing and no one knows exactly why that is," Gill said. "Unfortunately, the rate of increase is also not that different from Type 2."
- People with diabetes also often struggle with other autoimmune diseases, such as MS, Lupus, Crohn's and colitis, rheumatoid arthritis or celiac disease. "It's not unusual to have more than one autoimmune disease," said Gill. "Sometimes you get this sort of autoimmunity phenotype, where you have maybe one major autoimmune disease but other kinds of allergic things – just a broken immune system."

# Campus celebrates off-campus involvement

*Beyond These Halls recognizes nearly 200,000 hours of volunteer service*

By Ryan Smith

For Dr. Phil Currie, talking to reporters is just his way of letting the world know how cool dinosaurs really are.

"It's great letting people know that you're working on something pretty important and pretty cool at the same time," said Currie, a professor in the University of Alberta's Department of Biological Sciences, and Canada Research Chair in Evolution and Ecology

Currie has received major international and national media for his breakthrough dinosaur research and is this year's recipient of the Edmonton Journal Media Relations Recognition award for his outstanding communication with journalists. He received the award April 12 at the fifth annual Beyond These Halls recognition ceremony, honouring U of A volunteers.

In 2006, more than 195,000 volunteer hours were contributed by 238 individuals and 30 groups from the U of A. It would take one person 23 years of non-stop work to equal the contribution.

Currie hopes that his stories, which appeared in newspapers and magazines around the world, and are well documented on the Internet, will encourage more youngsters to think of the sciences when following their dreams.

"One of the main reasons I got interested in dinosaurs in the first place was because of Roy Chapman Andrews, who wrote about his expeditions to Mongolia.

He was a good writer and he made it seem very exciting. I've certainly always been very, very thankful that I was able to read that book when I was 10."

The ceremony recognized the diverse and valuable community service contributions made by faculty, staff and students in 2006, internationally, nationally and locally, said U of A Chancellor Eric Newell.

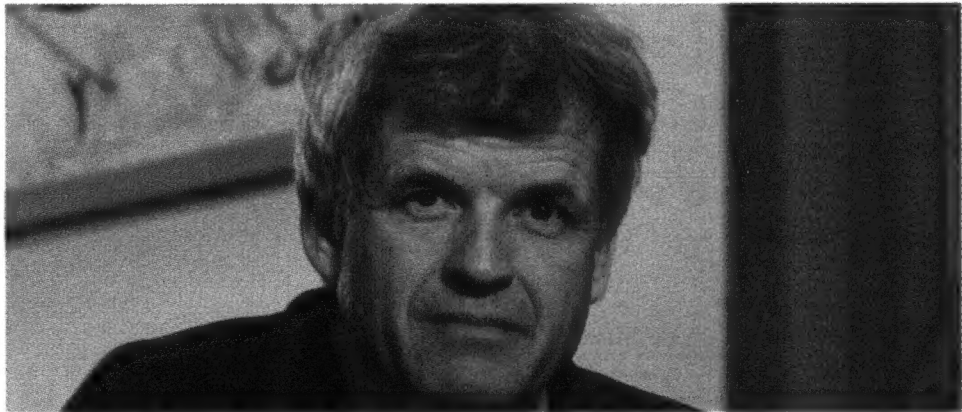
"It's like anything else – if you celebrate good initiatives by students or faculty, you allow them to lead by example. If you're trying to make change, you're always better off by giving good examples that encourage other people to create initiatives of their own," Newell said.

Fostering a campus atmosphere where community interaction is a priority also helps to attract the best and brightest to the U of A, said Newell.

"The chance to change the world, the chance to improve the world – that's what draws outstanding faculty and students."

Some of the notable recognitions include:

- The Senate Exemplary Service Recognition to International Health Initiatives by Medical Students, a student group which traveled to Tanzania, Bolivia, India and Zambia to work on health initiatives related to malaria and AIDS.
- Students' Union VP Student Life Omer Yusuf presented the Students' Union Rising Star Recognition to two students.



Dr. Philip Currie was awarded the Edmonton Journal media relations recognition award at this year's Beyond These Halls recognition ceremony. The Senate-run event celebrated more than 195,000 hours of community service performed by students, faculty and staff members.

Adrienne Huxtable, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Physiology who coaches high school basketball, is vice-chair of the Alberta Graduate Council, and co-ordinator for Let's Talk Science. Samara Birch, a second-year criminology student who is a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters and The Youth Restorative Action Project, spends time each week working with Victim Services and, through Young Scientists Conference, teaches Grade 9 students about emergency response services.

Edmonton city councillor Karen Leibovici presented the City of Edmonton's Civic Engagement Recognition to two recipients. Naeem Ladhani, of the Faculty

of Science is vice-chair of the City of Edmonton Youth Council, chair for the U of A's annual High School Model United Nations conference, and volunteers with the Canadian Diabetes Association and Stollery Children's Hospital. The second recipient is the U of A's Student Legal Services, a non-profit organization of more than 200 volunteer law students who provide free legal information and assistance in the Edmonton area.

Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour presented the United Way Initiatives Recognition award to two recipients, Wendy Saunders and the University of Alberta JDC West Team for their combined fundraising initiatives. ■



# talks & events

Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: 12 noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

## UNTIL SEP 4 2007

**Graduate Student Support & Strategy Group (GS3G)** Offers grad students a comfortable and supportive environment to discuss concerns/challenges/experiences related to being a grad student, develop effective problem-solving and coping strategies related to these areas, share and hear about other student experiences. Individuals are required to meet briefly with the facilitator prior to attending. If you wish to RSVP online and choose to leave your phone number and/or e-mail address, we will contact you to schedule an appointment. To RSVP online with only your name, please contact Student Counselling Services to book an appointment. 2:30 - 4 p.m. 2-600 Students' Union Building <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/counselling/g3g.cfm>

## APR 26 - 29 2007

**Mark Hobson Art Workshop at BMSC** Join Mark Hobson for a painting workshop at the Bamfield Marine Science Centre on Vancouver Island. This three-day workshop is focused on acrylics and will be a chance to learn the techniques of painting the underwater marine world. With the aid of video footage and aquaria of living marine life we will explore the way light filters through an underwater kelp forest. The workshop is primarily for intermediate or experienced painters and is limited to 15 participants. [http://http://www.bms.bc.ca/news\\_events/events.htm](http://http://www.bms.bc.ca/news_events/events.htm)

## APR 27 - 28 2007

**11th Annual Regional Nutrition and Food Service Conference: The Basics are Back** Targeted to dietitians and food service professionals, nurses and other allied health professionals, our program gets back to the fundamentals. Sessions include Bringing food back into nutrition, Updates on fibre, salt and trans fats, Enhancing patient food services, Hiring and retaining your best staff and much more. Call (780) 735-0530 or email [RNFSeduc@cha.ab.ca](mailto:RNFSeduc@cha.ab.ca) with any questions or to receive a copy of the brochure. Bernard Snell Hall Aberhart Centre [www.capitalhealth.ca/NewsAndEvents/ConferenceAndEvents/NFS\\_Conference.htm](http://www.capitalhealth.ca/NewsAndEvents/ConferenceAndEvents/NFS_Conference.htm)

**Eugenics and Sterilization in Alberta: 35 Years Later** Eugenics was a scientifically inspired social movement that was influential across North America in the first half of the 20th Century, and that was carried to an extreme in the institutionalization, mass sterilization and murder of millions in Nazi Germany. This public conference will examine and reflect on eugenics and sterilization in Alberta, looking back on the historical period in the middle half of the 20th Century, as well as at the 35-year period since the repeal of the Sexual Sterilization Act. The keynote speakers are David King, the minister who was instrumental in the repeal of the Act, and Dr. Geoffrey Reaume, co-founder of the Psychiatric Survivor Archives in Toronto. The conference is free and open to the public. For the full program and registration, see [www.whatsorts.net](http://www.whatsorts.net); for further details, e-mail [whatsort@ualberta.ca](mailto:whatsort@ualberta.ca) or call 780-492-3307.

## APR 28 2007

**University Prep: For High School students, Teachers and Parents** University Prep is a one-day workshop for high school students, teachers and parents to prepare for the academic changes and challenges associated with university. It is designed to help students learn to study effectively, take notes in lectures, read textbooks for maximum information and to prepare for and take multiple-choice, short-answer, essay and problem-solving exams at the university level. These strategies are not only helpful for university but will be an invaluable asset for high school diploma exams. The course costs \$80. To register, or for more information please contact the Academic Support Centre at 1-780-492-2682. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2-702 Students' Union Building <http://www.ualberta.ca/asncnr>

**Teepee Celebration** Join us on our opening day as we put up our teepee for the season. An elder will be assisting us, will explain the symbolism associated with teepees, and will create an authentic ceremony for the special occasion. Refreshments, stories and crafts will be part of this celebration. A great event for the whole family. Regular admission applies. 1 - 3 p.m. <http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca>

## APR 29 2007

**The Augustana Choir Home Concert** The Augustana Choir Home Concert (presenting their 2007 tour program), under the direction of Dr. Ardelle Ries. Tickets are \$12 (adults); \$8 (students/seniors); \$38 (family) and are available at the door. 8 p.m. Faith & Life Chapel Faith and Life Centre, Augustana Campus, Camrose.

## MAY 1 2007

**R.U. Lemieux Lecture on Biotechnology** Dr. Peter Seeberger, professor for Organic Chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, is presenting a lecture on, "Automated synthesis-derived carbohydrates as tools to understand malaria and create anti-parasitic vaccines." 4 - 5 p.m. 2-115 Education Centre

## MAY 2 - 4 2007

**Rooms of Their Own: Women in the Knowledge Economy and Society** TELUS Centre <http://www.crstudio.arts.ualberta.ca/rsc>

**32nd annual Department of Psychology Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series** Dr. Richard M. Lerner, Bergstrom Chair in Applied Developmental Science and director of the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development at the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, Tufts University, presents a series of three lectures scheduled at 4 p.m. each day in E2 001, Engineering, Teaching, and Learning Complex. <http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/newsevents/DSLSPoster.pdf>

## MAY 2, 2007

**Among the Gently Mad: Continuing Adventures in the Book World** Nicholas Basbanes, award-winning author and celebrated chronicler of book people, book places, and book culture has worked as an award-winning investigative reporter, a literary editor, and a nationally syndicated columnist. His first book, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in nonfiction for 1995, and was named a New

York Times Notable Book of the Year. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts

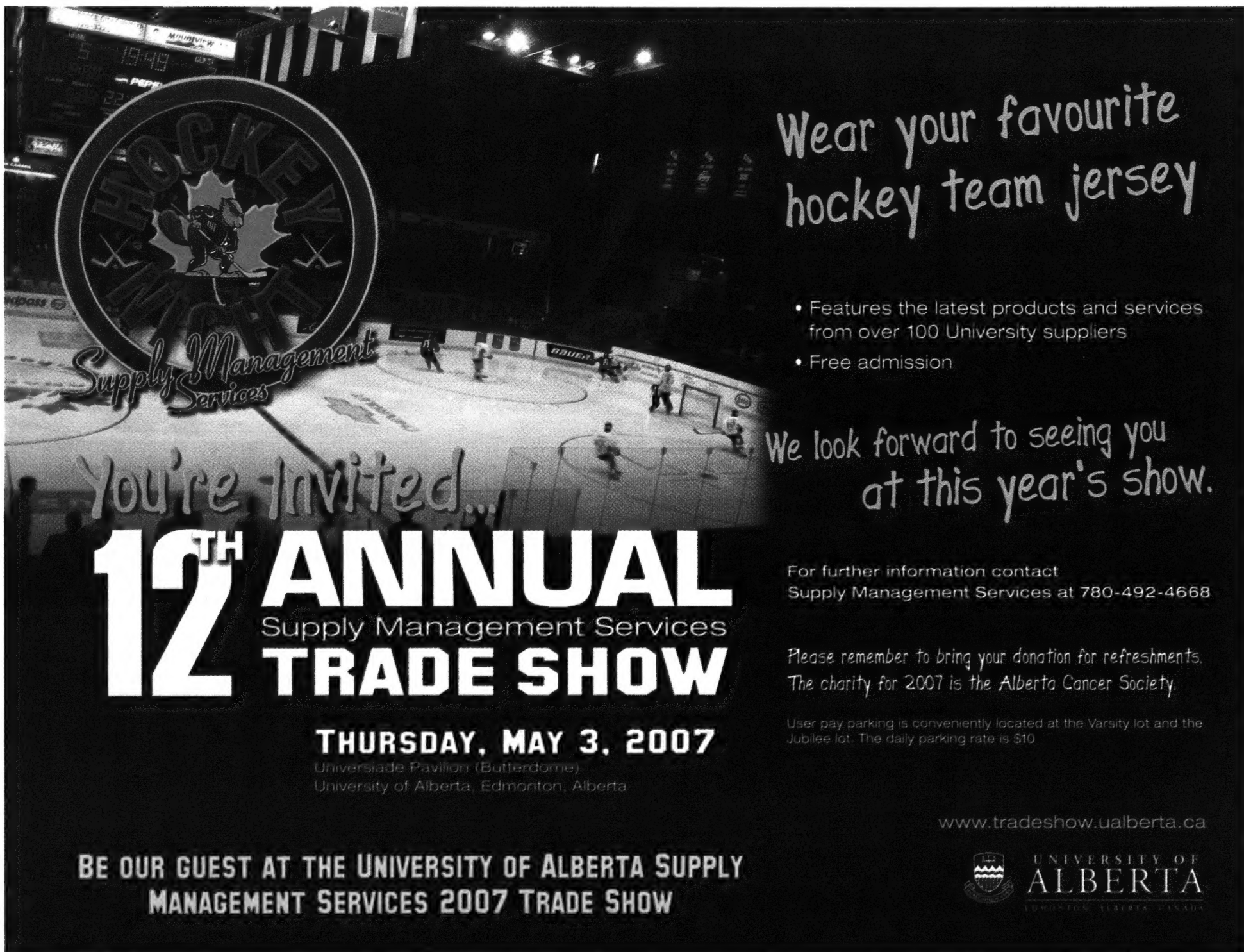
**Public Health Sciences Grand Rounds** Dr. Sunita Vohra, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, director, CARE Program, Stollery Children's Hospital, will present a seminar entitled, "N-OF-1 Trials and Tribulations." 12 - 1 p.m. 2-117 Clinical Sciences <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

## MAY 3 2007

**JumpStart Company Development Conference** This conference is for students and faculty researchers who want to launch a business, early stage startups, or developing companies that could benefit from a range of expert seminars from experienced entrepreneurs. Also on the same day, Conference participants have access to the Annual VenturePrize Alberta Business Plan Competition Final Showdown and Awards Luncheon. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. <http://www.TECedmonton.com> Hall C, Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton

**VenturePrize Final Showdown & Awards Luncheon** The 5th Annual VenturePrize awards Luncheon is an exciting and informative event for anyone interested in the new ventures in the Edmonton region. Highlights: The final showdown of three finalists competing in the Fast-Growth Category of the Alberta-wide VenturePrize Business Plan Competition, with 3-minute video profiles and final "pitch" to judges and audience; Selection and Awards to the winner of the Alberta Student Business Plan Competition category, featuring three finalists from the U of A's School of Business competition. Winner receives \$10,000 in prizes. Keynote Speaker: Leonard Brody. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/tec Edmonton/Hall C, Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton>

**Distinguished Lecture** Dr. Renee Miller, professor of Computer Science at the University of Toronto, will present a lecture entitled "Efficient Management of Inconsistent Data." Please join us for coffee and cookies at 3 p.m. Lecture to follow. 3:30-5 p.m. CSC B-10 Computing Science Centre <http://www.cs.ualberta.ca/events/>



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**Women Writing and Reading: Past and Present, Local and Global** This three-day conference offers a forum for academics and the wider community to discuss issues around the theme of women as writers and readers. The aim of the conference is to explore these issues in the past and present, and in a local and global context. We invite contributions from a wide variety of perspectives - social, literary, artistic, historical, political, economic, scientific, legal, philosophical, and so on. What, why, and how do women read and write? What conditions shape women's reading and writing? What is the relationship between women's reading and writing? TELUS Centre [http://www.crcstudio.arts.ualberta.ca/www\\_conference](http://www.crcstudio.arts.ualberta.ca/www_conference)

## MAY 4 2007

**2007 Alberta ECE Graduate Research Symposium** The aim of the symposium is to create and strengthen research collaborations, as well as provide mutual exposure among industry and academia. Its scope includes, but is not limited to: nanotechnology/MEMS, wireless communications, advanced computation, signal/image processing, power, lasers/optical engineering, systems & control, software engineering, and biomedical engineering.

Throughout the day there will also be an industry expo with booths and/or representatives from Micralyne, Yotta Yotta, SKF Magnetic Bearings, the U of A Nanofab, NSERC, TEC Edmonton, IEEE, APEGGA, Matrikon, University Technologies International, Axia NetMedia, and the Microsystems Technology Research Institute (MSTRI). For more information, please visit the conference website listed below. Keynotes: Dr. Norman Beaulieu, Canada Research Chair in Broadband Wireless Communications, Dr. Ray Muzyka, CEO and a co-executive producer at BioWare Corp. 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. 2nd Floor Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex [www.ece.ualberta.ca/~ecegsa/symposium2007/](http://www.ece.ualberta.ca/~ecegsa/symposium2007/)

## MAY 6 2007

**Founder's Day Tea** What do cake, green and gold and graduands have to do with Rutherford House? Join us at Rutherford House from 12 noon until 4 p.m. as we discover how Alexander Cameron Rutherford celebrated one of his favourite days of the year: Founder's Day Tea. Ellen Schoeck, author of *I Was There: A Century of Alumni Stories* about the University of Alberta, 1906-2006 will be available for a book signing Rutherford House is offering a 50 per cent admission discount to all university staff and students (valid One Card required). <http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/rh>

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



# recognition awards

### Faculty of Science Award Winners for 2006/2007



#### Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching

Dennis Hall  
Department of Chemistry

Dr. Dennis Hall's commitment to teaching has been evident since his arrival at the University of Alberta in 1997. Although renowned for his research in organo-boron and combinatorial chemistry, his most direct impact on students has been felt in the classroom. Whether teaching large introductory organic classes or smaller, more specialized graduate-level courses, his enthusiasm, knowledge and ability to inspire students is clearly reflected in his teaching style. Students comment that his teaching is "superb", "excellent", "awesome", "amazing", and "magnifique". Perhaps more telling are some of the following comments: "In 8 years of various post-secondary education, Dr. Hall is the first instructor I can give full marks to. His passion for subject material is evident in his teaching style. Don't let this one go. Have him teach other instructors how to teach.", "...I can credit Dr. Hall with... awakening an innate desire to continue studying organic and biochemistry. This influence had a profound effect on me personally." The above comments should be understood in light of the fact that students often associate anxiety and intimidation with the introductory university organic courses, perhaps more so than any other area of chemistry, reflecting the profound impact Dennis Hall has had in the classroom.

Dragos Hrimiuc  
Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

Dragos Hrimiuc graduated with honors from "Al. I. Cuza" University, Iasi, Romania with a perfect grade point average, and received his PhD in mathematics in 1988 from the same university with a thesis in differential geometry.

He was an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics, University of Iasi, (1982 -1996) where he taught and developed a variety of courses. His students had a great admiration for the quality of his teaching and for his talent to communicate complicated mathematical concepts in a very easy fashion. He coached the university team for the National Olympiad of Mathematics.

In 1996 Dr. Hrimiuc moved to Canada and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences at the University of Alberta. Here, he immediately distinguished himself as an outstanding teacher. His teaching style, his contagious enthusiasm and amazing sense of humor have made his classes so packed that students are virtually sitting in the aisles. He is one of the editors for the mathematics magazine *Pi in the Sky*, a semi-annual periodical designed for high school students and undergraduates. Among his research papers are an important number of expository articles to promote the interest of mathematics among students.

#### Faculty of Science Research Award

Dr. Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa  
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

After graduating in civil engineering in his native Costa Rica, Dr. Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa completed his masters in hydrology at the University of New Hampshire before earning his Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from the same university. He then joined the University of Alberta's department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences where he has been able to follow his passion: measure the impacts of biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation in tropical dry forest environments from land use and cover change. Arturo uses satellite images to detect how light is reflected by trees. Through long-term monitoring of tropical trees, Arturo and his team are able to look at global effects of climate change. Currently, he's using the satellite images to detect the presence of lianas, parasites that grow around and up trees, in tropical ecosystems. Lianas are one of the fastest-growing life forms in the tropics, the result of increased carbon monoxide in the atmosphere. Lianas are considered one of the key fingerprints of global change in tropical environments.

#### Faculty of Science Innovation in Teaching Award

Dr. Glen Loppnow  
Department of Chemistry

Glen Loppnow was educated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (B.Sc., M.Sc.) and the University of California, Berkeley (Ph.D., Biophysical Chemistry). After a post-doctoral fellowship at Princeton, he joined the Chemistry Department in 1993 and has risen through the ranks to Professor and Associate Chair, Undergraduate Affairs. In the last six years Glen has invigorated the Department with his intense interest in introducing innovative teaching methods and in creatively developing curriculum. This interest has led to his providing inspirational and effective leadership both by example through his own teaching and through his interaction with other faculty members in Chemistry, across the Faculty of Science, and over the entire campus.

Glen teaches courses in physical chemistry, a subject perceived by students to be difficult. He introduced interactive group exercises with a goal of encouraging team building within the class. He piloted the use of personal response devices to promote the engagement of all the students and he uses games in the style of jeopardy to increase active learning in the classroom. In classes where students expect traditional teaching methods, these innovations involved taking a risk, but in Glen's hands, they are proving to be highly successful as students discover they enjoy being engaged. A typical comment from student evaluations of Glen's course is 'Class was very conducive to learning as it was easy to participate'. This success has encouraged other faculty members to take the risk to try different ways of teaching. Glen is convinced of the value of experiential learning in Chemistry and he introduced a new credit course, "Research Opportunities" for students in the second year of their chemistry degree. Students have responded very positively to this course. Glen is also a member of the team developing Science 100, an integrated discovery-based program in the Faculty of Science, and is active within University Teaching Services. We salute Glen for his many highly effective accomplishments in the field of teaching innovation.

#### Faculty of Science Service Award

Dr. Randy Whittall  
Department of Chemistry

In September 1999, Dr. Whittall joined the University of Alberta as a Faculty Service Officer II and director of the Mass Spectrometry Facility in the Department of Chemistry. Under the directorship of Dr. Whittall, the facility has been expanded and updated with the addition of six new instruments (and retirement of two). Several new services are now offered including biomolecule characterization. The facility has provided high quality and very efficient services to many members of the chemistry department as well as other researchers both inside and outside the university. Randy obtained his undergraduate degree in Honours Chemistry at the University of Guelph and moved to Edmonton in the fall of 1992 to pursue graduate studies in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Alberta. He was a recipient of NSERC post-graduate scholarships from 1992 to 1996 and completed his Ph.D. thesis with Professor Liang Li in 1996, focusing on the development of Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Mass Spectrometry. After one year of post-doctoral studies with Professor Liang Li, Randy moved to the University of California San Francisco and worked in the laboratory of Professor A. L. Burlingame in the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with the support of two-year NSERC post-doctoral fellowship.



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**Launching an open access journal in knowledge transfer** Dr. Martin Eccles, professor of Clinical Effectiveness, Newcastle University will be talking about his experiences launching "Implementation Science", an open-access journal. 12-1 p.m. 6-107 Clinical Sciences <http://www.nursing.ualberta.ca/kusp/index.htm>

MAY 9 2007

**Alberta Injury Control Teleconference** Grace Maier, administrative director, Geriatric Division, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital will present a seminar entitled Establishing a Western Canadian Collaborative for the Study of Falls Prevention Strategies. Month-to-month subscriber rates for the teleconference are \$20.00 (\$25.00 for out of province). Port reservations must be made in writing (by fax) no less than 48 hours prior to the schedule teleconference. 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. 4070-A Research Transition Facility [www.med.ualberta.ca/acir](http://www.med.ualberta.ca/acir)

**Open House Reception in Honor of Dr. Gary Kachanoski** The Office of the President would like to extend an invitation to the campus community to attend a reception in honour of Dr. Gary Kachanoski's contributions to the University of Alberta in his role as Vice-President (Research). This open house will take place from 3-5 p.m. Alumni House (11515 Saskatchewan Drive) Please RSVP online at <http://www.president.ualberta.ca/eventsrsvp.cfm?cfmocache&event=1017> Questions: Sheila Stosky at (780) 492-1525

MAY 10 - 15 2007

**Permafrost Short Course** Upon completion of the course you will: Have a working knowledge of logistic challenges of building in northern regions, understand the origin and different types of ground ice, know how to determine the existing thermal regime and impact of changing environmental conditions on this regime, understand the unique behaviour of freezing, frozen and thawing soils and understand how to design for these conditions, know how to evaluate and design foundations and slopes in permafrost and be exposed to case histories related to hydrocarbon pipelines in permafrost, mine design, tailings impoundments under Arctic conditions and pile foundation support systems in regions of saline permafrost. If you are an engineer who has never attended a permafrost engineering course, or want to learn about the latest information in permafrost engineering, this is for you. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Natural Resources Engineering Facility, Markin/CNRL Building

MAY 10 2007

**Teck Cominco Chair in Mineral Process Technologies** David Lynch, Dean of Engineering, invites you to attend a celebration announcing the establishment of: The Teck Cominco Chair in Mineral Process Technologies 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Solarium, 2nd Floor, Maier Learning Centre Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex [www.engineering.ualberta.ca/events](http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/events)

MAY 11 2007

**Proteins at the Heart of the Human Spliceosome - Recent Structural Insights** Andrew M. MacMillan, professor, senior scholar, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Department of Biochemistry, U of A is presenting a seminar on "Proteins at the Heart of the Human Spliceosome - Recent Structural Insights." 3:30 p.m. M-149 Biological Sciences <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/index.php?Page=399>

MAY 14 2007

**FP7 Information Session** As the European Union rolls out the FP7 Program, Canadian researchers need critical information about the program in order to take advantage of opportunities available to Canadians. The U of A, in partnership with the Communications Research Centre, ERA-Can and the IST-EC 2 project is hosting a series of information sessions on the European Union's 7th Framework Program (FP7). Research will be supported and strengthened to address European social, economic, environmental, public health and industrial challenges, serve the public good and support developing countries. Cooperation supports research actions in the following thematic areas: Health, Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technologies, Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies, Energy, Environment (including Climate Change), Transport (including Aeronautics), Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities, Space and Security. Federal and provincial funding agencies will also be on hand to provide up-to-date information on current programs. Opportunities for networking and meeting other researchers will also be a key component of these sessions. 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. 150 TELUS Centre

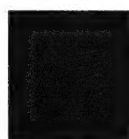


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## VARGO TEACHING CHAIRS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The selection committee for Vargo Teaching Chairs is pleased to invite nominations for the 2007 competition.

Vargo Teaching Chairs at the University of Alberta have been created to foster excellence in teaching at the University. This program is committed to support of individuals demonstrating innovative and creative teaching methods that enhance learning by undergraduate and graduate students.

Detailed criteria can be found at: [https://www.conman.ualberta.ca/stellent/groups/public/@academic/documents/procedure/pp\\_cmp\\_059025.hcsp](https://www.conman.ualberta.ca/stellent/groups/public/@academic/documents/procedure/pp_cmp_059025.hcsp)  
The application deadline is May 15.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOR ACADEMIC DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY TEACHING SERVICES

Reporting to the vice-provost (academic programs), the academic director provides strategic leadership for University Teaching Services within an academic environment focusing on teaching and learning. The director is instrumental in establishing and maintaining university-wide programs and processes designed to stimulate constructive innovation in teaching, learning, and the effective use of educational technologies. As an experienced change agent and educator well versed in educational research, the director plays a pivotal role in fostering a University culture in which the scholarship of teaching is highly valued.

To this end, you are invited to attend presentations by the final three candidates:

- April 30 – Dr. Heather Kanuka: Enhancing the Undergraduate Learning Experience
- May 3 – Dr. Connie Varnhagen: Daring to Discover: The University in a Changing World

• May 7 – Dr. James Parsons: Edifying Research: Continuous Improvement of Teaching and Innovations in Learning

All presentations will take place in the UTS conference room (CAB 215) at 3 p.m.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

The International Partnership Fund was established to support University of Alberta faculty and staff participating in exchange activities with the university's many partner institutions around the world.

The fund provides financial support to faculty and staff engaged in the development and/or implementation of activities that contribute to sustainable and reciprocal relations with international academic partners. Awards may be used for travel by either the U of A staff/faculty member to visit an international partner, or for the faculty or unit to support a visitor from the partner. The fund favours activities that develop projects bringing an international focus to the academic, research and teaching mandate, and contribute to the internationalization objectives of the faculty.

Support from the IPF will ideally complement multiple funding sources. Matching support from the individual and/or the department/faculty and partner institution is required.

Note: The IPF only applies to those institutions with which the U of A has a formal agreement.

For guidelines, application forms and list of eligible partner institutions, please visit the University of Alberta International website: <http://www.international.ualberta.ca>

For more information please call 492-5840 or e-mail: [ipf@international.ualberta.ca](mailto:ipf@international.ualberta.ca)

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home. Reliable tenants. Furnished. 3 bedrooms + study. Pleasant large kitchen-dining room, yard, porch. Jun 1 – Aug 31. \$1500/month, utils incl. No pets. Non-smokers. Deposit. References. Gordon (780) 492-0476 W, Judith (780) 434-0253 H.

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**YOU ARE INVITED!**

The Office of the President would like to extend an invitation to the campus community to attend a reception in honour of Dr. Gary Kachanoski's contributions to the University of Alberta in his role as Vice-President (Research).

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9**  
This open house will take place from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
Alumni House (11515 Saskatchewan Drive)

Please RSVP to confirm your attendance at [www.president.ualberta.ca/eventrsvp.cfm](http://www.president.ualberta.ca/eventrsvp.cfm)  
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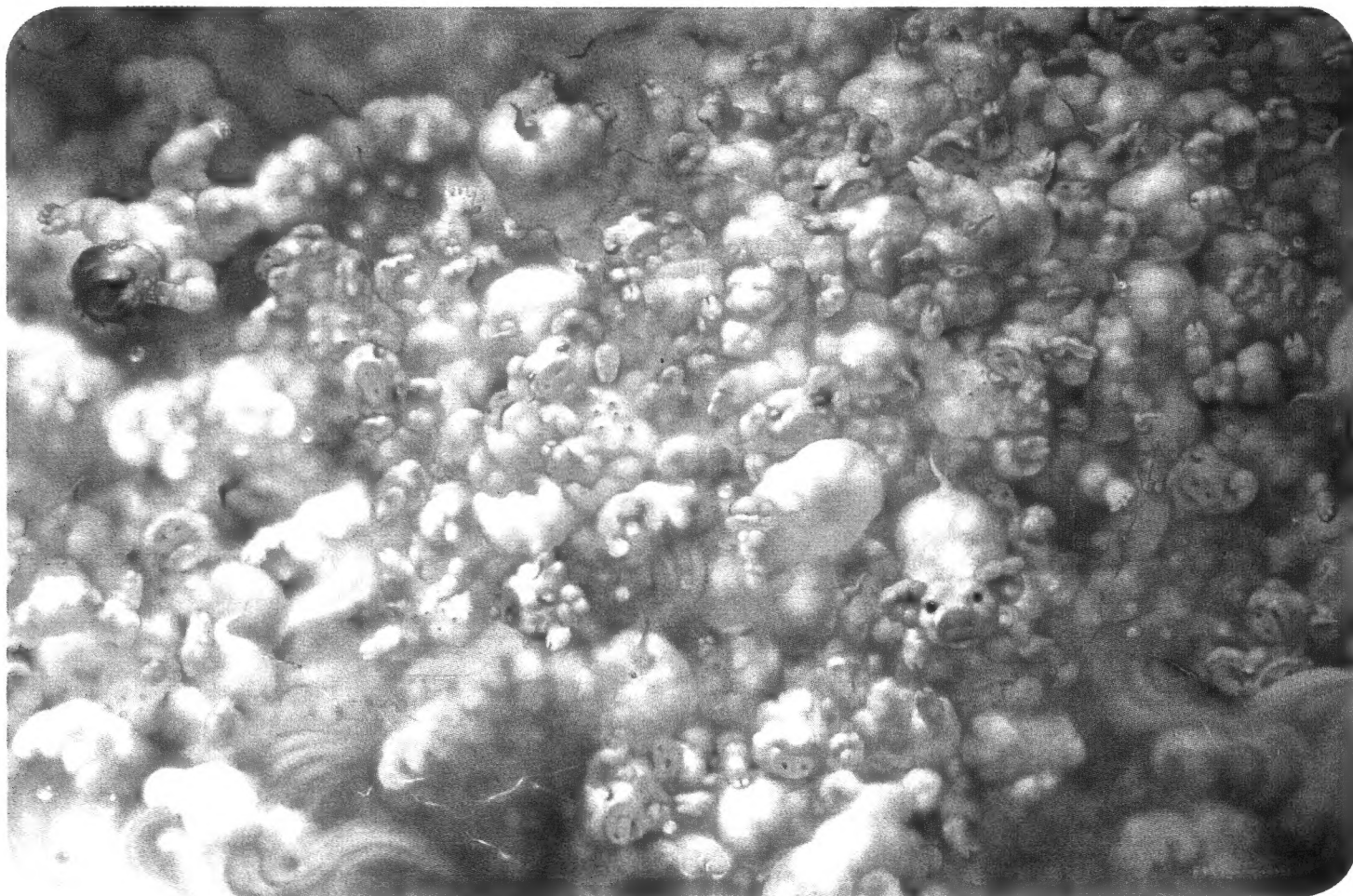
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Guoqiang Zhang, *Desire - the Earthly World*.  
Oil on canvas. 200 x 300 cm.

# Enterprise S Q U A R E D

## ***Art gallery's opening spotlights innovative art and relationship***

By **Gilbert A. Bouchard** and **Caitlin Crawshaw**



Chinese art is undergoing a dramatic upheaval and Edmontonians have the chance to witness the revolution first hand at *China Sensation: New Art from Chengdu*, the Art Gallery of Alberta's inaugural show at the U of A's Enterprise Square.

The exhibit features the work of 18 contemporary artists from the city of Chengdu, located in the Sichuan province of the People's Republic of China. The show illustrates the wide variety of styles and artistic ideas among a range of artists whose works point to the long-tradition of Chinese art in some instances, and in others, plays with abstraction.

The artworks demonstrate China's connection to the West, exploring themes related to the entertainment industry, television and media images of the western world. Other works explore the imagery and ideology of the social realist style of art that was prevalent under Mao.

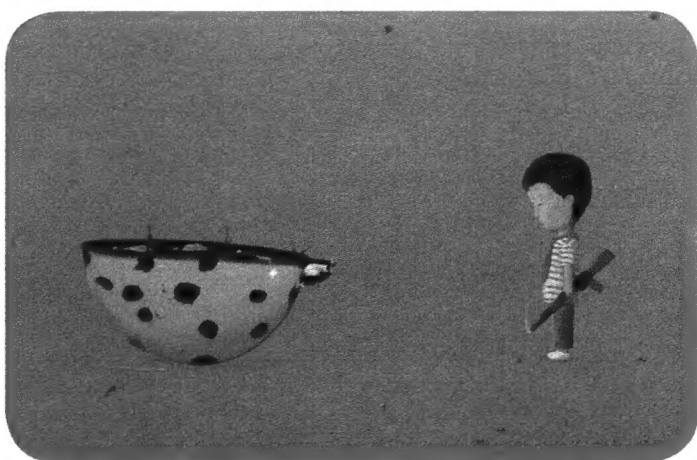
At an event marking the gallery's move to Enterprise Square April 11, Tony Luppino, the gallery's executive director, spoke of the growing interdependence between the U of A and the gallery.

"This is an example of the co-operative benefits that go both ways between the university and the gallery. With the gallery

sharing a building with groups like the Faculty of Extension, this means that people coming to visit the gallery will get exposed to the U of A's offerings, while the gallery is there as a resource to students."

Enterprise Square, which opens in September, will house TEC Edmonton, the Faculty of Extension, and the School of Business' Executive Education and Family Business Institute. Some university administrative units will also move to the downtown building.

*China Sensation* runs until June 10 at Enterprise Square in downtown Edmonton. ■



Artist Yi Dao in his studio in Chengdu, China.

Peng Jiang, *Kill all the Pests*, two in a series.  
Oil on Canvas. 170 x 150 cm.



**folio** **back**  
*page*